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Friday 12th March, 2004

Term 1 Week 7



Australasian Schools Science Competition - Tuesday May 4th  
Australasian Schools English Competition - Wednesday May 19th  
Australasian Schools Mathematics Competition - Wednesday June 16th

## **DIRECTORS DESK**

### **Students to Start Earning or Keep Learning**

I was approached this week by a parent uncertain about proposed changes to leaving ages for school students.

There are significant changes ahead and so I provide the following information sources from our official documents related to the issue.

#### **1. What New Legislation ?**

The new laws will make it compulsory in 2006 for young people to stay at school until they finish Year 10 or turn 16, whichever comes first. Currently, young people can leave school when they turn 15. About 1100 students turn 15 and leave school before completing Year 10. The change will mean that most young people will complete Year 10.

The new laws will require young people who have finished Year 10 or turned 16 to participate in education and training for:

- ☐ a further two years, or
- ☐ until they have gained a Senior Certificate, or
- ☐ until they have gained a Certificate III vocational qualification, or
- ☐ until they have turned 17.

This period is referred to in the legislation as the "Compulsory Participation Phase".

This change will mean that young people are more likely to obtain a formal qualification or certificate before they exit the education and training system, and thus improving their chances for future success. In addition, young people who are employed for 25 hours a week will be deemed to comply with the participation requirement.

#### **2. Why is it necessary to legislate for this?**

Young Queenslanders it is claimed can no longer expect to get good jobs, earn decent incomes and lead rewarding lives without obtaining at least a Senior Certificate or some kind of substantial vocational qualification. Coupled with the improvements to the education and training system targeted at this age cohort, making it obligatory for young people to participate in some form of education or training will increase the number of young people achieving such qualifications and improve more young people's life chances.

#### **3. How will the obligation to participate be enforced?**

The obligation will be placed on parents of young people. Parents will be responsible for ensuring that the young person is participating. Local solutions for reengagement of young people who have left education and training will support parents in meeting their responsibility. Ultimately, if all else fails, penalties attach to non-compliance, and parents can be prosecuted and fined for failure to meet their responsibility. The legislation will enable parents to avoid prosecutions where the parents have a "reasonable excuse". This may arise where the young person is no longer living with them, or they are unable to control the young person's behaviour to the extent necessary to make the young person participate.

#### **4. Why is the obligation placed on parents?**

Placing the obligation on parents is consistent with the obligation during the compulsory school age, and this obligation is simply extended. The obligation on parents recognises the important role parents play in young people's lives, and recognises the important responsibilities that are placed on a parent in relation to the lives of their children. However, the reasonable excuse defences also recognise that sometimes simply being a young person's parent will not necessarily mean that the parent is able to ensure the young person's participation in education and training.

#### **5. Will parents be prosecuted because their 16 year old refuses to go to school?**

A number of steps have been incorporated into the legislation before prosecution, and prosecution will be an action of last resort. Before prosecution can take place, the parent must receive an information notice from the Director-General of the Department of Education or an authorised officer, who reasonably suspects the parent is contravening the obligation. Then the Director-General (or authorised officer) must take all reasonable steps to arrange a meeting with the parent to discuss the parent's obligation. If, despite all reasonable attempts to hold a meeting, the parent fails to meet, the parent must be served with a warning notice. Not until then can a parent be prosecuted. In addition a range of local strategies may be engaged to ensure young people are supported and able to participate as required. It is anticipated that the local strategies will be far more effective than a heavy-handed approach of threat of prosecution.

At the Western Cape College facility planning, subject choice and our partnerships with the Training Centre are in response to the impact of these changes. It is an agenda all parents need to discuss with their children at a reasonably early age as well.

Regards  
Don Anderson  
Director—Western Cape College

# HEAD OF WEIPA CAMPUS REPORT

## NEW STAFF

I would like to welcome Shannon Robertson and Jill Scott to the staff of Weipa Campus. Jill has taken up the position of Teacher Librarian working mainly with year one to six students. We are very fortunate to have Shannon join the team in the capacity of school nurse. He has had several years of experience in this role and will be a valuable asset in educating our Year 7 to 12 students on important health issues. Our student support services team grows to now include 2 Guidance officers, Nurse, Youth Health Worker, 1.5 Special Needs teachers 2 Reading Recovery Teachers and 3 Learning Support teachers. This is a formidable team focusing on addressing the huge range of issues our student body faces. I am currently recruiting the third Learning Support Teacher and a coordinator of a Behavioural Unit.

## MASTER PLAN

Over the past few months the Weipa Community have been informed of the proposed Master plan to address the demand on facilities at the Weipa Campus. Don Anderson has submitted the Educational Brief justifying the needs of the School Community through linking the delivery of the curriculum framework to the facility requirements. There is an exciting time ahead of us and we eagerly await a response for Education Queensland. The original concept of building a new Junior School at a neighbouring site is now no longer a preferred option. The vision is presently to develop the existing site with particular focus on a united Middle School (Year 4 to 9) located on the Eastern side of the campus. This will allow the Middle School Administration and Teaching team to be centrally located and enable the flexibility for teachers to work across the Senior and Middle schools. It is proposed that the Junior School (Preschool to Year 3) will occupy the Western side of the Campus.

## CAR PARK

The Administration car park on the western side of the campus has been closed for safety reasons and redevelopment. Access to this area will be on rare occasions for delivery of heavy items only. Parking has also become an issue at the back of the Year 1 to 6 area. Congestion around Tarquin Court in particular needs to be addressed and has instigated discussions between Town Office, Police and the School.

## FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Commences:	10.15am
Morning tea:	10.45am
Concludes:	11.15 am
Venue:	Undercover area on the Year 7 to 12 campus

There will be a full school assembly on Monday the 15 March to present the Western Cape College leaders for 2004. College captains, Vice captain, Middle School Leaders and House Captains will receive their badges of office. All School Community members are welcome.

Tony Fuller

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Year 4—6 POD You Can Do It Award:** Shay Nichol from Year 4 for displaying Getting Along skills.

**Year 7—9 POD You Can Do It Award:** Kate Parsell from Year 7 for displaying Persistence when working on tasks.



### After School Extension Program

The after school extension program is up and running. Once again Mr Finn is the coordinator of the program and for the next few weeks they are concentrating on strategy games. These games include chess, backgammon and euca. Over the course of the year the students will cover various mathematics studies including vectors, group theory and queuing. They also will study physics concepts, chemistry, electronics and robotics.



### **JUNIOR SCHOOL - YOU CAN DO IT! AWARD**

Congratulations to our You Can Do It! Award winner for this week

**DOMINIC ELLIS FROM 2/3C**

Dom receives his award for Completing his Story Map...

Congratulations to this weeks' winner of the W.A.G. Card— (Weipa Adults are Great)

**MR BROOKS (6B)**

**FOR BEING A REALLY GREAT TEACHER**

# SENIOR SCHOOL The Sharp End

## Work Experience

The primary aim of work experience programs is to assist students in their transition from school to work. It provides a formal arrangement for students to participate in the activities of a place of paid or voluntary work.

In stating the above it must be remembered that at all times the educational value of the program for students remains the primary consideration. The focus role for students is that of learners and not employees.

Every year employers from the Western Cape region and beyond form partnerships with the Western Cape College (W.C.C) to assist us in delivering our work experience programs. The W.C.C appreciates the opportunities these employers provide and acknowledges them as valued volunteers and partners in building futures for our young people.

In the near future preference sheets will be issued to students for the up and coming June work experience week. Parents / Caregivers should consider carefully the preferences they select. With eighty-two students to place in year 10 and 11 those who are first to lodge their paperwork will be most likely to get their preferred option.

Students and parents are welcome to commence initiating placements on behalf of their child with potential employers however they must remember final negotiations and arrangements rest with the College. Unauthorised placements will void any insurance and indemnity policies put in place by Education Queensland. Details regarding these arrangements should therefore be passed on to the College as soon as possible.

There are also several restrictions, which apply to the types of placements students can participate in some of these being:

1. Types of work performed
2. Types of job sites
3. Minimum age of fourteen
4. Maximum of thirty days participation in one calendar year
5. Unavailable on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan
6. The placement must be such that it can be supervised by College staff
7. Completion of some Occupational Health and Safety training.

Further information regarding these restrictions and other conditions will be made available later in the term.

It must also be remembered that work experience forms only part of a global education plan. A balance needs to be negotiated between other course subjects and student commitments in order to allow adequate time to successfully complete **all** course requirements as mandated by Education Queensland. For this reason and considering the added pressures placed on year 12 students in their final year, it has been the professional opinion of the college staff that we don't offer group work experience in year 12 except on an individual basis and only if it is in the best interest of the student.

Consequently the following arrangements have been made to provide a holistic approach for students in keeping with three years of senior schooling and Education and Training Reforms for the Future (E.T.R.F).

- Year 10 (2 weeks Total) - 21<sup>st</sup> –25<sup>th</sup> June then 22<sup>nd</sup> –26<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Year 11 (1 week Total) - 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Year 12 Negotiated on an individual basis if required.

My team and myself look forward to a successful work experience year and in building productive links for the benefit of all with the employers, students and parents of Weipa. For any questions regarding the work experience program at W.C.C please do not hesitate to call any of the people below.

Carrie Sanderson Vocational Coordinator or Pricilla Blanco on  
4090 6469

Lance Jarrett  
Head of Senior School 4090 6474

## COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Calling for expressions of interest from any parents out there who would like to be involved in the organisation and collation of this year's College Magazine. There are many jobs—large and small—and remember—many hands make light work! Two very dedicated parents helped out last year—Esther Rutherford and Marg Berry—both will tell you how rewarding the experience was.

Please register your interest by calling or leaving a message with your details to Cathy Eden on 40906444.

### Year 6 Secrets

The Year 6 students have settled in very well and are providing excellent role models for the rest of the middle school. Mr Brooks, Ms K and Mrs Fuller are impressed with the dedication of their students particularly with our Rich Tasks.

We are at the business end of Away With Words. At the time of writing this article, the students were in the final stages of their draft picture book. They are learning that a writer works very hard and needs to write many drafts to come up with a polished book. They have also learnt that deadlines must be met. Some have given up lunch hours in order to come up with that 'A' book. The task has asked the students to write about a phenomena/aspect of nature. Therefore the stories are varied and interesting. They are about whale migration, eclipses, meteor showers, chameleons, bushfire etc. The book will be presented on the computer, however to give that personal touch all the illustrations will be hand done. The other part of the task is to do two reviews. One will be of a peer's work and the other of an already published picture book.

Our other Rich Task, Space Futures has all the students captivated as well. We have learnt about gravity through a variety of experiments. Next week the students will complete one of the pieces of assessment. This is in the form of a Spinoff's Poster. We have also learnt about NASA. In the coming weeks, we will start to formulate our space experiments on plants.

Keep up the great work kids!! The pace is very 'full on'. Remember if students are away they will need to catch up that work. In order to achieve well students must remember the four keys: Be organized, Be persistent, Be confident and Get along.

From the teachers of the classes from heaven

Mr Brooks, Ms K and Mrs Fuller.

### FROM THE COMMERCE DEPT

Students have been having a busy and productive time in the areas of Computers and Media, and Business Principles. We've welcomed two new staff members – Kate McCarthy and Karen Reardon - both doing a wonderful job engaging students in learning the wonders of Balance Sheets in BP, Animations in PowerPoint, Assignment typing skills – like drawing diagrams and typing tables in Word. Not all areas are exciting but all are important and useful skills to learn.

The Australian National Identity Rich Task is powering along, with the selectors doing a great job in sorting through the footage we have, selecting what they need and making plans for their own filming requirements. Keep up the great work guys!!

We've also welcomed Russell Window to the Computing area taking the year 9's for their regular Computer and Media course while Cathy Eden has been directing the selectors and editors through the Rich Task. Russell is sharing his expertise in Excel with the year 9's. They are preparing comprehensive data tables and learning great things about formulas and good presentation of information.

All students will soon be handing in assignments or sitting for exams in these subjects – good luck to you all – make sure you put your best computer fingers forwards!

Cathy Eden

#### MENINGOCOCCAL VACINATIONS

Immunisations will be carried out on Monday 15th  
and Tuesday 16th March

Any students who were unwell or absent this week will have their  
immunisation carried out on these days .

If parents wish to be with their children for the vaccination, con-  
tact Mary Hindmarsh on 40906236

#### FOSTER CARE WEEK 15-21 MARCH 2004

There are young people at your local school who are un-  
able to love with their parents.

Please take a moment to reflect on the importance of Fos-  
ter Care for these young people.

Take this opportunity to ask yourself if you could provide  
a safe home for a young person,  
and possibly make that one difference in their life.

There is a desperate need for safe and loving homes for  
young people 12+. One call is all it takes.

40513926—Cairns Shared Family Care—ask for Jo'lene  
or Evonne

